BOW SHALL BANK NOTE CIRCULATION BE INSURED?

The public mind is naturally turned to the inquiry: How shall the national bank notes be kept in circulation? What shall be taken as a safe foundation therefor, and yet be so low in price as that the banks can afford to buy and deposit, or what can be proposed which will give to the banks safeguard against loss in taking and issuing circulating notes? I am not in favor of anything but the interest-bearing obligations of the United States Government. I recommend that the internal revenue tax wpon circulation be taken off in whole or in part. This is one per cent, per annum, and amounts to about three millions and a quarter each year.

amounts to about three millions and a quarter each year.

The expense of carrying on the Bureau of the Comptroller of the Currency was last year \$104,955.07, of which \$16.820 is to be reimbursed by the national banks. All other expenses, such as printing and furnishing notes, and the like, were \$141,363.99; of which \$54,600 were for plates which is to be reimbursed by the banks. The net expense to the Government was \$174,896.97. The gain to the Government from the loss of notes, is, at a low estimate, \$4,000,000 for every period of twenty years, or \$200,000 per year. Then the tax may be taken off entirely, and the Government not be a loser. It may be taken off in part, and the Government receive more by reason of this circulation than it expends to keep it in existence. If urrher recommend that this department be authorized to silow to the banks circulation to the amount of 90 per cent, upon the average market value for the treater are the treater of the state of a part and the price to market value for the treater of the treater of the price of the property are the property are the property are a price of the part o authorized to show to the banks circulation to the amount of 90 per cent, upon the average market value for the twelve months prior to the deposit of the United States bonds deposited on security. Thus a bank would be entied on security. Thus a bank would be entied on becauting the sum of the permium to paid for bonds, as well as upon the permium to paid for bonds, as well as upon the par value of them. Had United States bonds never risen above par, no one would have doubted but that a note circulation, based upon them at a ratio of 90 per cent, would have been amply secured. Why should any one doubt that the same ratio on their market value will be safe; the ratio of the circulation furnished to shift in amount to the side of safety as the market value swings to and fro?

the circulation furnished to shift in amount to the side of safety as the market value swings to and fro?

I think that a retrospect of the tweaty-three years last past will descry two things. First, that the civil war could not have been carried on and brought to a desirable result had not the bonds of the United States been issued and found-acceptation with moneyed men. Second, that they would not have found that acceptation had it not been for the lead and the effort of the national banks. Now, it has always been held a prime quality of value in those bonds that they have, by law of the United States, been exempt from taxation by State or municipality. Such is the law of the creation of them. That law has effect when they are in the hands of individuals and of many carporations, and there they are invulnerable by such taxation; but when held by national banks the law falls of its purpose. Though owned by the banks as a part of their capital or their assets, and used by them in their business, even in their relations with the Government, State legislation has found a way to reach them. It is reundabout and avasive, but it is effectual. The stockholder of a national bank is made to pay a tax on the value of his share in the enoital and assets, though they consist largely of the bonds of the United States. I submit that this is not equal taxation, and that it is especially unjust and ungrateful in view of the two statements of fact with which I began this paragraph. Legislation by Congress could forbid such exercise of taxing power, and thereby make the holding of United States bonds, and the use of them for a basis of circulation, more desirable to the banks.

There are collateral measures which will the aid to the banks without detriment else-

them for a basis of circulation, more desirable to the banks.

There are collateral measures which will give aid to the banks without detriment elsewhere, and may be taken by them in lieu of all or in aid of scant profit on circulation. They may not now loan on real estate, or take security thereon as cellateral to a personal liability. This restriction might be removed. It has been suggested that the requirement for a reserve might be removed or made less in amount. This is of doubtful expediency. The injunction for a reserve is meant as a restraint on daring or negligent management, and as a safeguard against forced suspension or the need of sharp contractions.

The further legislation by Congress at its

The further legislation by Congress at its last session, to stop the overcertification by the national banks, of checks drawn upon them, has not been kindly acquiesced in and observed. Directly or indirectly, it has been disobeyed, or evasion of it sought.

PUBLIC MONEYS.

The monetary transactions of the Govern-ment have been conducted through the offices of the United States Treasurer, those of nine of the United States Treasurer, those of nine assistant treasurers, and through 139 national bank depositories.

The gross receipts of the Government, amounting during the fiscal year, as shown by warrants, to \$954.250,145.95 (\$555.942.564 of which were on account of leans), were deposited as follows:

In Independent Treasury offices.

\$800.503.439 12 In national bank depositories.

\$144.330,703 83

In Independent Freasity offices. 144,633,700 SI In national bank depositories. 144,633,700 SI An amount of United States gold coin is received every year in the Sub-Treasity offices, which by abrasion in use has teached the least tolerated weight, and therefore cannot be again paid out. There is no limit of tolerance for silver coins but a large number of them are redeemed each year under the provisions of the act approved June 9, 1879, which are unfit to be again paid out, being more or less mutilated or defaced. These coins, gold and silver, are carried in the cash at their nominal value, but are unavailable until recoined. They canont be recoined without some less. In order that this amount of coin be made available, it is recommended that a sufficient sum be appropriated each year to pay for the cost of the recoinage of such coins.

otherwise make known by mark upon it that it is not genuine.
That there is likely to be a continuing surplus in the Treasury over the ordinary expenses of the Government, so long as the present revenue laws remain, is seen by those attentive to fiscal affairs. This has called out propositions for the disposal of surnius of public moneys; two of which may be noticed. One is, that the surplus be parcelled out among the States of the Union. This, though it has been ingeniously argued, has not so approved itself to the common sense of the people as now to call for elaborate statement of reasons why it should not be adopted.

Charges of fraud and irregularity in the administration of the law enacted to carry out the treaty with Hawaii, so far as concerns the excliption of sugars from duty having been made both in public bodies and in the ubile prints. I appointed a Commission of three trustworthy persons (one of whom was nominated by prominent representatives of the sugar trade at New York) to go to ban Francisco and Portland Oregon, and, if necessary, to the Hawaiian Islands, to fully investigate the matter. Their report, which will be duly trans-

mitted to Congress, falls to show that such charges have any foundation.

The consolidation of districts and diminution of ports of entry are called for by sound business considerations, and may be accompilated without Increasing smuggling or withdrawing proper facilities for documenting vessels.

drawing proper fashings for occumenting resols.

The issuing of papers to vessels and the collection of hospital dues may as well be done by subordinates, and the unproductive districts abolished, saving expense and promoting the efficiency of the service. Owing to the inequalities in the present compensation of collectors and surveyors, and to the nature of some of these offices, sinecure, almost, it was found impracticable to adopt any uniform rule for fixing sataries of collectors and surveyors under the present organization.

ANNUAL SALARIES RECOMMUNDED.

annual salaries recommended a repeal of section 2,648 of United States Revised Statutes, authorizing a charge for blanks by the collectors and surveyors on the northern, northeastern, and northwestern frontiers, and of all laws allowing commissions, fees, and charges for storage.

I also recommend that, in lieu of present salaries and all moisties and perquisites and commissions on disbursements received by collectors, naval officers, and surveyors, there be an annual salary. To prepare for an occasion requiring the change of any salary in the recess of Congress, the law might provide that one, not beyond a maximum named by law, might be fixed by the President, to be reported to Congress at the next session after his action, subject to its approval or change. I also recommend that section 3,687, United States Revised Statutes, be repenied.

The act, approved March 3,1983, entitled "An act to prevent the importation of adulterated and spurious teas," has been productive of good effects. It needs amendment in some particulars, to give officers full power to achieve the results intended.

particulars, to give officers tail power to achieve the results intended.

THE NEW TARIPF.

The tariff enacted March 3, 1883, while it has given rise to some troublesome questions of administration, but fewer than were expected from a new law of this kind, has simplified official work. The schedules for cotton and slik fabrics are much plainer than those formerly existing on the same subject. The mode adopted for collecting duties on sugar according to its saccharine strength seems to have given general estisfaction, and has removed the opportunity formerly existing for evading the revenue by artificial coloring.

If there be legislation on the tariff at this session, an improvement might be made in the provision regarding third-class or carpet wools, either by fixing one rate of duty for them, regardless of value, or by having a broader contrast between the higher and lower classes. Now the duty is two and a half, or live, cents a pound, according as the value of the wool is over or under twelve cents a pound; and where the market value is close to twelve cents, as it is now, the temptation is strong to undervalue the wool, so as to bring it in at the lower rate of duty.

UNDERVALUATIONS.

UNDERVALUATIONS.

duty.

UNDERVALUATIONS.

In connection herewith it should be said that changes in the modes of business have made undervaluations more frequent and difficult of prevention. It is found that toreign manufacturers of, or wholesale dealers in, many classes of merchandise decline to sell or to furnish price lists to American merchants. It turns out that those manufacturers or dealers have established business houses, or agencies, or special consignees in this country, to whom they make shipments exclusively. It is suspected—it might be said that it is found out—that in many cases the goods sent over to these representatives are invoiced below their actual value abroad. There is no risk in this of mercantile loss to the foreign consignor, as the interest is mutual of him and his representative; the latter pays nor at the invoiced value, but accounts at the actual selling price, in which both have an interest. It is not easy for the Government Appraiser to learn in all cases the real market value abroad, for price lists have been withheld and actual sales are supplanted by this process, and it is hard to maintain criminal or civil actions for fraud against the consignee, for it is not easy to prove that he had a hand in the fraudulent undervaluation. Legislation aimed at these practices is needed.

INTERNAL REVENUE. From the various objects of taxation under the internal revenue laws, as reported by the Commissioner of Internal Rovenue, the re-ceipts for the fiscal year cuded June 30, 1882 and 1883, were as fellows:

Objects of faxation. -Fixed pear ended June 23-Tobacco Fermented Houors Hanks and bankers Anna and bairsers 5,258,558,47 3,748,391 (0) of heave changes: 2,318,455 14 1,946,272 19 Bank cherks: 2,372,258 00 2,289,542 20 Parent medicine, &c. 1,478,559 50 2,158,250 57 Collections not other wise provided for 81,250 00 71,852 43 \$146,509,273 72 \$144,553,344 86

The e-st of collecting the internal revenue for the fiscal year was \$5,113,734.33. The esti-mated cost for the same work for the current year is \$1,999,190. PRODUCTION OF SPIRITS

PRODUCTION OF SPIRITS.

The quantity of spirits produced and deposited in distillery warehouses during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1833, is less than the preduction of 1882 by 31,839,853, and of 1881 by 43,714,842 callons.

The decrease in production of the fiscal year 1883 as compared with that of the fiscal year 1882, is distributed among the different kinds known to the trade, as follows:

known to the trade, as follows:		
Decrease in production of— Bourbon whiskey. Rye whiskey Alcohol. Gin Highwines Misocitateous.	4,482 (#.5 23,364)	
Total decrease. Increase in production of— Rum. 17,476 Pure neutral or cologne spirits. \$23,080	32,361,080	
Total	521,836	
There were remaining in distiller houses on the 30th of June, 1883, and		
June 39, 1883 June 39, 1882 There should, under the present h	aw. come	

out of bonded warehouse and pay tax distilled spirits as follows:

that their nominary cannot be recomended until recoiles. They cannot be recoiled as sufficient sum be appropriated each year pay for the cost of the recoilage of such as the pay for the cost of the recoilage of such to the happens that counterfolts of, oraled or sweated. United States coins, are of oid to the officers charged with the receiptor of the cost of the recoilage of such to the happens that counterfolts of, oraled or sweated. United States coins, are of oid to the officers charged with the receiptor of the cost of the recoilage of the cost of the cost

yond the need of the sinking fund.

REDUCING TAIATION.

I consider that in legislating for the future the resenues should not be so far reduced as to prevent the application each year of about \$50,000,000 to the sinking fund. Upon the estimate of \$55,000,000 as the surplus for the current year, we find a surplus for that period of nearly \$40,000,000 not wanted for the regular expenitures of the Government, or for the payment of the national debt through the sinking fund.

The estimated receipts for the current year from customs are \$195,000,000, a reduction of less than \$20,000,000. Considering that there has been some depression of business during the past year and current year, it is probable, should business revive, that the revenues from

customs under the present laws will in succeeding years increase rather than diminish. It was estimated by the Benate committee that the repeal of internal revenue taxes proposed by their bill would effect a reduction of 334.790,334. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue estimates that the aggregate amount of reduction made by the act will not be less than \$43,000,000 per annum, including the \$6,000,000 of taxes on deposits of national banks; but he further estimates that the increase of receipts from distilled spirits will so augment the revenues from that source as to make the aggregate receipts from internal revenue for the proceeding year. The reduction, therefore, from all sources of internal revenue for the current year appears to be about \$10,000,000 less than the reduction expected by the Sonate committee. We have, then, a reduction of \$30,000,000 less than was sought for and expected.

expected by the Senate committee. We have, then, a reduction of \$30,000,000 less than was sought for and expected.

THE NEW TARIFF.

The new Tariff act went into operation on the lat day of July, 1883. Wherein the provisions of it lessened the duties upon foreign articles it stimulated importations thereof, immediately before the lat day of July. The goods were put in bonded warehouse, to be withdrawn at once after that day, on payment of duties at the new rates. Wherein it increased the duties tas it did in some instances, by new provisions to meet the adjudication of courts or the radings of this department), it stimulated importations prior to the lat day of July, 1833, with the purpose of taking the benefit of the lower rate prevalent up to that date. These accelerated importations were, as a natural result, followed by decreased importations of the same articles after the law took effect; so that the lasting effects of the application of it to the business of the country may not be known with reliable certainty, either in the general result upon the volume of revenue to be yielded by duties upon imports, or in its narticular results upon especial classes of goods and especial branches of domestic industry.

Again, it may be deemed needful to so legislate as to certain industries and businesses as to effect reduction or suspension of the revenue from the taxation upon them. Those making or trading in distilled spirits, or who have made loans or advances of money thereon, will be earnest in endeavor for an extension of the bonded period. It is not unlikely that Congress will listen to their appeal. An extension of the bonded period. It is not unlikely that Congress will listen to their appeal. An extension of the bonded period will effect a reduction of revenue for the length of time thereof. On the whole, then, this department does not recommend an immediate revision of the Tariff act. It adheres, however, to its conviction that ultimately the just and expedient method of relief from taxation, and of limiti

In distillery and special bonded wavehouses. 73,847,193 In lands of wholesale tipor dealers. 28,199,630 In lands of retail liquor dealers. 28,199,630 Total. Total. 115,949,255 The quantity in bond upon which the tax is payable between Nov. 14, 1883, and June 30, 1894, is 21,997,770 gallons, the tax on which is \$19,797,993. The quantity upon which the tax is payable during the discal year ending June 30, 1885, is 37,228,317 gallons, the tax on which is \$33,505,475. 505,475.
The quantity upon which the tax is payable during the fiscal year ending June 20, 1886, is 15,356,030 gallons, the tax on which is \$13,-531,675.

820.427. A reduction of the tax on whiskey in bond to

S20.427.
A reduction of the tax on whiskey in bond to 50 cents a gallon would reduce the revenue about \$7.600.000 for the current year, were the reduction to take effect from Nov. 14, 1885, and about \$13,500.000 in the year ending June 30, 1885.

In connection with this subject, it is deemed proper to call attention to the fact that the total number of gallons of distilled spirits produced in the year ended June 30, 1883, estimated at 74,013,308, about 5,500,000 less than all in bended warehouse June 30, 1883.

Owners of spirits in bend declare themselves unable to meet the payment of taxes thereon as they fall due. They have to some extent experted them rather than to pay tax. It is likely that they will again ask an extension of the time of payment of such taxes. They may ask for a repeal or modification of them.

The estimates of receipts from taxes on distilled spirits adopted in this report include the taxes thereon failing due the carrent year, amounting to Bearly \$20,000,000.

POREIGN COMMERCE.

The foreign commerce of the United States during the last ilseal year, including imports and exports of merchandise and specie, was as follows:

Total \$805,050,705 Imports: Merchandise. Total Imports and exports during the year ended Jime 30, 1883 Imports and experts during the year ended June 30, 1882 Increase

\$40,258,340 The excess of exports of merchandise over imports thereof during the last eight years is shown as follows: shown as follows: Year ended June 30— 1879 \$70,043,141 (890) 1877 151,152,694 (891) 1878 207,814,294 (891) 1878 207,914,294 (1892)

is78. 267.814.294 less 25.082.683

The value of experts of domestic merchandise during the year ended June 30, 1883, was \$804.223.632, as against \$733.239.732 during the preceding fiscal year, an increase of \$70.983.990.

The value of the imports of merchandise into the United States during the year ended June 30, 1883, amounted to \$723.180.914, as against \$724.639.574 during the preceding fiscal year, a decrease of \$4.455.630. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1893, the value of the experts of gold and silver coin and building amounted to \$31.829.333, as against \$49.417.479 during the preceding year, a decrease of \$17.507.146, and the imports thereof amounted to \$24.459.331, as against \$42.472.390 during the preceding year, a failing off of \$13.982.999.

There was during the liscal year just closed an excess of experts over imports of gold and silver coin and buildin amounting to \$3,330.912, as against \$4.945.099 during the preceding year.

TONNOSE OF VESSELS OF AMERICAN OWNERSHIP,

TONNAGE OF VESSELS OF AMERICAN OWNERSHIP, TONNAGE OF YESSELE OF AMERICAN OWNERSHIP.
The tonnage of vessels owned in the United
States at the close of the fiscal year 1883, according to the records of the Register of the
Treasury, was 4,235,487,25 tons, Of this amount,
1,302,094,65 tons were in 2,174 vessels, registered for the foreign trade, and 2,933,392,60 in
22,048 vessels, enrolled and licensed for the
consting trade and fisheries. There was an increase of 9,800 tons in vessels in the foreign
trade, and 59,754 tons in domestic trade.

Of the merchandise brought in at soaboard, lake, and river ports during the fiscal year 1883, an amount equal in value to \$136,092,290 was imported in American vessels, and a value of \$564,175,576 in foreign. Of the exports of merchandise, a value of \$104,418,210 was shipped in American, and a value of \$354,331,-348 in foreign vessels. Of the combined imports and exports of merchandise, 15,54 per cent, was conveyed in American, and \$1,35 per cent, in foreign vessels. DISTRIBUTION OF CARRYING TRADE.

INCREASE OF OUR COMMERCIAL MARINE. INCREASE OF OUR COMMERCIAL MARINE.

It is not an agreeable reflection that the freightage on 84 her cent, of our commercial imports and exports should be paid to alien shipowners. Can this be helped by the removal of burdens laid by law? Of those now directly imposed by statutes on our vessels salling foreign, there remain, besides clearance, entry, and admeasurement fees, only the tax of 30 cents per ton, payable once a year on entry from a foreign port. Vessels in the domestic trade have for many years been exempted from tonnage tax. The income from this tax for the last ilscal year was \$1,320,590,50. Of this amount \$1,057,961,50 was paid by foreign vessels. Even though so large a proportion is thus paid, it is well deserving of consideration whether it is not advisable to return to the policy adopted in 1831, and entirely abolish the tax.

The burdens limposed by the States in the

whether it is not advisable to return to the policy adopted in 1831, and entirely abolish the tax.

The burdens imposed by the States in the way of pilotage are considerable. The extent of the embarrassments arising to commerce from this cause can be fully understood and remedied only when Congress shall take entire control of the subject, as it is believed it has the power to do.

Against the general abolition of entrance, clearance, and admeasurement fees there exists the objection that a portion of the wages of customs officers are at present paid from them, and their abolition would entail the payment of fixed salaries in the place of payment by perquisites. If my recommendation in another part of this report for a discontinuance of these fees and for payment by prefixed salaries be adopted this objection will cease.

There appear but two methods by which our foreign shipping can be directly increased, namely, by subsidies, and by allowing the free purchase of foreign ships. Whether either or both of these means shall be adopted will depend on the judgment of Congress whether it is better to resort to them than to suffer the yearly loss of \$5\$ per cent. of the freightage on exported and imported merchandise.

n their use to the prevention of the disease known as pleuro-pneumonia, or lung plague. Quarantine stations have been established for the ports of Portland, Me. Boston, New York city, and Baltimore, Bultable accommodations in sheds and yards have been provided for about 215 full-grown cattle at Portland. 700 at Boston, 450 at New York, and 550 at Baltimore.

Boston, 450 at New York, and 550 at Baltimore.

REVISIUE MARIES.

This service continues to perform estisfactory work. Its vessels, which now number 38, have cruised during the fiscal year an aggregate of 300,880 miles, and have boarded and examine 1 25,557 vessels, of which 2,240 have been seized, or reported to the proper authorities, for violating the law in some respect.

In relief work they have been particularly efficient, having assisted 224 vessels in distress, which, with their cargoes, aggregated in value 44,885,175, and on board which were 2,497 persons. Sixty people have been picked out of the water and saved from drowning. One revenue steamer alone assisted 76 merchantmen, valued, with their cargoes, at \$1,493,020.

LIFE-SAVING SERVICE. ten years ago Congress set the War Department at sur-veying the waters of the Mississippi above the mouth of the Crow Wing, with the professed object of creating a number of reservoirs to hold back the water in the wet season for the benefit of the navigation when the water should otherwise become too low. In 1875 the army engineers reported that they had projected and surveyed seven dams, and estimated the cost of con struction, as follows;

1. At the outlet of Lake Winnibigoskish.

2. Leech Lake.

3. Manual Committee of Lake Winnibigoskish.

4. Manual Committee of Lake Winnibigoskish.

5. Poregons Falls.

6. Pine Ruger.

7. Guil Lake

valued, with their cargoes, at \$1,493,020.

LITE-SAVING SERVICE.

During the past year this service has made its usual excellent record.

At the close of the year the stations numbered 194. The number of disasters to documented vessels within the field of their operations was 300. On board these vessels there were 3,792 persons, of whom 3,777 were saved; the others were lost. The number of shipwrecked persons succered at the stations was 651, and the number of daws relief afforded them in the aggregate was 1,879. The estimated value of property involved was \$7,176,540, of which number of vessels totally lost was 68.

LIGHTHOUSE ESTALLISHMENT.

During the fiscal year the lighthouse establishment has put into operation 8 new light stations, 112 new river lights, 2 new fog signals, operated by steam or hot air, 7 new automatic whistling buoys, 6 new bell buoys, and 48 new buoys of the ordinary kind. It has discontinued three lights which were not needed, and has changed the characteristics of thirteen others, that they may be more useful than herestofore. LIGHTHOUSE ESTABLISHMENT.

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY. The operations of this service have been efficient and successful. The progress of the work is equal with the means given by Congress. Twenty-eight new charts have been published, and hundreds heretofore, published have been added to and corrected. The "Coast Pilot" has made progress, tide tables, and a map of the variation of the compass throughout the United States have been published of accuracy and extent beyond what has heretofore been done.

MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICE.

fore been done.

MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICE.

During the last fiscal year 40,195 patients received relief, 13,356 were treated in hospitals, and 26,839 at the dispensaries. The usual number of surgical appliances and orders for transportation were furnished. The receipts from all sources were 4420,000,15, and the expenditures 4169,956,21. This includes 135,440,92, which were expended on account of extraordinary alterations and repairs to hospital buildings. Of the hospital patients treated 9,019 recovered, 2,355 were improved, 197 remained unaffected by treatment, 502 died, There were 2,586 persons physically examined by officers of the service at relief stations, some of them preliminary to shipment in the morehant marine, revenue marine, and lighthouse services, and to enlistment in the life-saving service. The larger number (2,171) were applicants for pilots Heesne, examined for color blindness. There have been no objections made to this examination or appeals taken within the year. Sixty-three of the nilots were found to be color blind, and accordingly rejected. The examinations should extend to the hearing as well as vision, inasmuch as ability to recognize the sound of escaping steam and of whistles is a necessary qualification for an efficient pilot.

NATIONAL BEALD OF HEALTH.

NATIONAL BOALD OF HEALTH, NATIONAL BEALD OF HEALTH.

The National Board of Health expended \$97.332.69, of which sum \$34.687.67 was for work in
progress at the close of the last fleed year and
\$62.644.33 are chargeable to the appropriation
for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1833. While
a liberal construction has been given to the
laws relating to sanitary work, the Board has
been held to strict accountability for all moneys
appropriated for its use.

The number of accidents to steam vessels
during the year resulting in loss of life was 34.

From exclosions. sions and sinking

The number of lives lost from various causes during the year was 281: Explosions ..

An increase over the previous year of 79.

An increase over the previous year of 79.

The greatest increase is from accidents caused by collisions. Doubts have been expressed whether the laws on this subject are well adapted to secure the result desired. The laws are somewhat profile, and revision, amendment, and simplification would be of benefit; yet the vigitant and thorough practical administration of them is what will be of the most service, and diligence should be directed thereto.

COUNT, EXAMINATION, AND DESTRUCTION OF REDIEMED AND UNISSUED SECRETTES.

aited States ing imports once, was as seed with the state of the state

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The net expenditures on account of the District of Columbia, for the fiscal year 1883, were \$3.817,028.48. The revenues deposited in the Treasury on this account for the same period were \$1.970.938.47.

Since Dec. 1, 1882, there has been retired, through the operation of the sinking fund, \$185,100 of the bonded indebtedness of the District, reducing the amount abnually required for interest \$11,265. Since the duties of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund of the District of Columbia were devoived on the Treasurer of the United States by the act of Congress of June 11, 1878, there has been retired \$1.375,230 of the funded debt, causing a reduction in the annual interest charge of \$80,853.67.

IMMIGRATION.

The administration of the "act to regulate

The administration of the "act to regulate immigration," approved Aug. 3, 1882, with the general supervision of which this department is charged, has been attended with a reasonable measure of success.

The fund created by the act is derived from a tax on align passaggers collected at the part

abla measure of success.

The fund created by the act is derived from a tax on alien passengers, collected at the port at which they land from vessels. The expenditure of it for the main nurposes of the act is limited to the ports at which collected. That expenditure is to be made by commissioners designated by State authority and bound by contract with the Secretary of the Treasury.

The previsions of the law which forbid the landing of alien convicts, lunatics, idiots, or nerson unable to take care of themselves without becoming a public charge, cannot be properly enforced without penalties for their violation, which the law does not inflict. The act is defective in that its execution depends entirely upon State officers. Naturally they care for local interests, and act to protect them. The execution of the law should be by Federal officers, under rules and regulations uniform throughout the country. The well-being of the immigrant and the protection of the whole public would be the end sought in all localities. At present there is lack of uniformity in the management and care of the immigrant, and the protection of the immediate public is first in contemplation.

A STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON CLAIMS.

A STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON CLAIMS. A STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON CLAIMS.

The experience of this department from year to year strengthens the conviction that there should be made by law a limitation upon the time wherein claims against the Government may be presented. Claims that, if ever existing arose fifty years ago, are now pending before auditing officers.

fore auditing officers.

THE PACIFIC RAILROADS.

Difficulties and differences have arisen between this department and the Pacific Railroads in the administration of the laws for the reimbursement of the United States for moneys directly or indirectly paid by it for their use or benefit. Litigation has ensued, and the courts have adjudicated upon the issues made, it is plain that there is a need of Congressional intervention and of legislation to place the relations of the contracting parties in a condition to benefit them all. The United States Commissioner of Hailroads, in his report for 1882, made accurate statements upon this subject, and suggestions of legislation which, in their general scope, commend themselves to the judgment of this department, and as this department is informed, are acceptable to those corporations. It is understood by the department that the Commissioner will in his report for this year renew his recommendations, and he will submit a bill for the consideration of Congress, designed to remove differences and difficulties, to end litigation and official embarrassment, and to put the pecuniary relations of the parties on a basis satisfactory to all. A draft of the bill has been left at this department. The general aim of it is to inquidate the amount of the debt owing by the corporations, so as to know what sum, payable in a period, the length of which is to be fixed will fally pay the United States both principal and interest, and to determine what annual payments will accomplish that end.

ALASEA.

I carnestly direct attention to Alaska, yet unorganized as a Territory, and the necessity THE PACIFIC RAILBOADS.

foreign shipping can be directly increased, namely, by subsidies, and by allowing the free purchase of foreign ships. Whether either or both of those means shall be adopted will depend on the judgment of Congross whether it is better to resort to them than to suffer the yearly loss of 8 i per cent of the freightage on exported and imported merchandise.

The appropriations, under which this department has established regulations for the guarantine of imported neat cattle, are limited.

Alaska.

I carnestly direct attention to Alaska, yet unorganized as a Territory, and the necessity of the establishment there of civil government. The civilization of the country is repeated and imported merchandise.

The several reports of the heads of offices and bureaus are herewith transmitted.

The several reports of the heads of offices and bureaus are herewith transmitted.

To the Honorable the Spraken of the Bureaus of Representatives.

THE UNITED STATES AT WAR WITH LETTER FROM AN IRISHMAN'S WIFE.

> To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Some sixteen years ago Lord Dufferin wrote a de-fence of Irish land tenure and Irish landlordism. He devoted especial attention to emigraion, which great Irish landlords, like the father of the present Lord Lansdowne, the successor of the Marquis of Lorne as Governor-General of Canada, actively promoted, chiefly to escape poor rates and confiscate the tenants' improvements. Lord Dufferin enthusiastically ap-proved of emigration. As the strongest argument in its favor, next to those already intimated, he proudly quoted a return of the Government Emigration Board, showing that between the years 1848 and 1864 the Irish emi-Ireland unward of thirteen million counds. Every shilling of it was clear gain landlords, except the sums that went to British

> ships as steerage passage money.
>
> In his speech in Cooper Institute a few months ago, Mr. Sullivan, President of the Irish National League of America, also quoted

Without waiting to see how the experiment turned out, whether there was any daming doine to wood lands or health by the overflow, or whether the dam would hold water or not. Congress appropriated \$150,000 more in 1881 for the dams generally, to be applied where the Secretary of War should see fit, and in 1882 K appropriated \$350,000 more. Thus it has appropriated \$250,000 more. Thus it has appropriated \$250,000 without any experimental evidence that the dams will do anything whatever, except to facilitate the doming of saw logs from a larger area of forest to the mills in Minneapolls and higher on the river. Minneapolis and higher up the river.

Now all that the very able army engineers have promised is, that if the seven dams are completed and the reservoirs created are kept full till the dry season in the reservoirs created are kept full till the dry season in the latter part of summer, their contents will make the Mississippi mavigable below St. Paul as far down as Lake Pepin. But among the specifications for all these dams are sluice ways for the passage of say logs. These cannot be used without liberating a good deal of water, which will refuse to run back into the reservoir for the benefit of the future mavigation below St. Paul. The lumisermen having the benefit of the impounded water of the lakes and streams, will be sure to use it as soon as the toe molts in the spring, and the practical problem of how much will be left to help navigation in the month of August remains to be solved. One thing is quite certain, that while logs are floated loose, and not in booms, between the falls of Pokegems and St. An-thony, steambout navigation between those points will not be helped by the dams. There is nothing a steamnot be helped by the dama. There is nothing a steam-boat is more afraid of than breaking its motive organs on a floating log. It is not the log that suffers. Hence, whatever navigation there is above Minneapolis must be destroyed by the dams.

Whether it was constitutional or not Congress has been very kind and generous to the miliers of Minneapo-lis in helping them since 1870 to the amount of over \$250,(071-\$250,000) of which was wasted in useless work

—to prevent their magnificent water power from going up stream out of their reach. Is that a good reason why Congress should spend as much more to aid the lumber manufacturers! They do not need, or to any great extent use, water power to convert logs into boards. Steam, raised by the debris of the logs themselves, does it. Not a log needs to be floated further down the Mis-sissippi than to the Northern Pacific Railroad before it is sawed. And if Congress is not foolishly, not to say unconstitutionally generous, the lumbermen themselves will build all the dams they need without the dauger of dewin band an the name trey ness without the unager of oc-stroying by overflow living trees, hay, and wild rice, and creating a malaria that will destroy themselves. What Congress has to do, if it does anything, is to prevent the imberneen from destroying the forests, by obliging them to carry off or loren upon the spot, at a safe time, all the debris of the trees they cut, otherwise the said debris, in dry time, becomes kinding, which has only to catch to destroy ten or a hundred times as many live

to catch to destray ten or a hundred times as many live pines as the lumber are have themselves. We have already had in the great pine forests of this country too many leahting frees to make our neglect and aluse of our forests anything less time a national crime.

The limit which Congress set in the appropriation bills to the sums to be paid out of the appropriations for dainages by overdow not being more than 10 per cent, of the same, should have prevented the expenditure of a single dedict in construction. If the Leech Lake Indian reservation were the property of white proprietors, the right of flowage of the two reservoirs on that tract could not be purchased of them for less than twice the cost of the dams. Besides destroying the hay meadows and the wild rice, a most excellent and matritious food which grows spontaneously on hundreds of acres, the resevoirs must drown and kill bundreds of acres, the resevoirs must drown and kill bundreds of acres, the resevoirs must drown and kill bundreds of acres of hard wood growing on the fertile low lands, causing by the malaria the whole territory to low lands, causing by the malaria the whole certifory to be worthless, except for human graves. It was with the utmost good sense that the 3000 Indians dwelling on that reservation, rejecting with scorn the pairry pittance of less than \$18,000 which was offered them for damages, are now demanding, with knives under their blankets, not less than \$400.00 a year for the destruc-tion of about all they have to eat, and the chance of be-ing victims of few r and ague the rest of their lives. Is it not plain that this sort of dam, whether the pro-tences be true or faise, won't do? Extans Waters.

THE FURESTS.

ber-Bamages of Dame.

7. Onli Lake No appropriation was made for the construction of any of these dams till 1850, when about one-quarter of a mil-liou of dollars was added to to cettinate of cost, and

\$75,000 was appropriated for the construction of the Winnittgookish dam as an experiment.

Without waiting to see how the experiment turned out.

In the Interest of Manufacturers

Not Fit Subjects for Congressional Appro-printions—The Great Discoveries Mostly Have Been Made by Private Explorers.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: Gen. Haten has pursued this wild dream in the name of meteorological science, and doubtless Congress will be called upon at the approaching session for a fat appropriation to could and man an expedition to make a freel patrons of explorations, in the matter of Arctic explorations, would not only be a needless waste of the public maney, but would be bound to end in a fusce as well. This is not only true of the general history of the Jour-neys toward the North Pole, but it is true of the most

difficult feats of land exploration on record. It was Speke and Grant, backed by the Royal Geographical Somety and not by the English Government, who first discovered the sources of the Nic. Si Samuel Baker first navigated the waters of the Albert Nyanza without first invigated the waters of the Albert Nyanza without any other assistance than that aforded by his indemitable plack and private fortune. Living atone was guided in over thirty years' labor and exploration by his religious enthusiasm, and while called "Consul" in his later years, it was an empty title. Stanley's support is well known, and the highly successful establishment of a line of stations across equatorial Africa is the work of a finely organized international society, without flowers ment subsidy from any nation. Even in our own attempts in the Arctic waters the highest point yet reached by man was in latingle 31 north and this was the promounters. was in latitude 51° north, and this was the promontery from which Dr. Hayes booked out upon the open Pelar Sea, having stedged his way necess the great tee barrier. This expedition was entirely a private enterprise, and the funds to support it were largely contributed by the late Henry Grianch. It will be remembered too, that the explorer salled northward in a little schooner, that United States, and that the entire outlay, covering a United States, and that the cattre outlay, covering a period of two years, did not exceed \$51(33). So closely was the expense account kept that Dr. Hayes used to relate with a wry face that Mr. Gramell charged him with the cost of the telegram from Haifax to New York announcing the safe deliverance of the survivors of two years perils very near the axis of the earth.

But the grantest of all these navigators is Nordenski-

But the greatest of all these navigators is Nordensk-old, again aftest in those high latitudes. In his yacht the Vega, and as a private enterprise, he made the Northeast Passage, and thus performed the greatest maritime fest of the last three centuries. There are few instances where Government expeditions, or even those which are partially official, have accomplished any great good for geographical science. The expedition commanded by Capt. Nores, consisting of the Alert and great good for geographical science. The expedition commanded by Capt. Nores, convising of the Alert and Discovery, cost England the neat sum of Lavi, 600, resulting only in giving new mames to old discoveries.

Enough has been cited to show that the explorer who really does original work is one who does not stand in fear of courts of inquiry for indiscretions of judgment; who is free from department orders, and strikes boilty out, takefull risks, and hattles for the prize with all hanging in the balance. Hence it is a mistake to put original exploration into the hands of a perfunctory corps of men like that inaugurated by such a rare type as "Howgate, U. S. A.," and continued by his fussy successor; and, moreover, this very instance of an army bureau going into what is practically maritime exploration is an offence to good sense.

But the folly may not possibly end here. Nearly every year, as will more than probably happen at the coming session, there are a number of Arctic cranks langing about the tapito, exhibiting charts and models, flying machines, indisons, and apparatus for riches roughlessed to getting a linearing, and they sometimes get an appropriation. It is a fact that when tagt liall of Yolar's tame first came the fore the Good monethmes get an appropriation. It is a fact that when tagt liall of Yolar's tame first came the fore the Good marting and they sometimes get an appropriation. It is a fact that when tagt liall of Yolar's tame first came the fore the Good machine, in the first was a great hole at the Fold down through which poured the Arctic waters by the centre of the earth.

The earth.

Therefore, if people want to take a hand in Arctic exploration, let them get their support and money elsewhere than from the departments and Treasury at Washington.

New York, Nov. 18.

Light Wanted.

To THE EDITION OF THE SUN-Sir: There is urgent need of better light at night on Broadway immediately in front of the Post Office building. This is a very busy point, and crowded with vehicles in the early very hasy point, and crowded with vehicles in the early evening. The electric lights at the other courses of the thoroughase practically abiliterate the feeble illumination of the street gas house in front of the building, and throw the shadow of it across the readway so that it is aimust impossible to distinguish the pathway when one true to cross the sirest. The damper of getting run over in the attempt it consequently very greatly and unnecessarily increased. I made ex attempts last main, and had to sive it up and try another point because of the risk. One or two electric lights placed in front of the building, similar to those on the Mail afreet side, would remove the damper at the same time.

Saw York, Dec. 2. Further partire.

How the Demonstrates that Ireland is a TAN on the United States. I observed in THE SUN the statement that To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Nine or

these figures of the Government Emigration

months ago, Mr. Sullivan, President of the Irish National League of America, also quoted these figures of the Covernment Emigration Board, but for a very different purpose. He pointed out that taking these as a basis, the people of the United States pay at least \$5,000.000 annually to sustain the peculiar institutions of British rule in Ireland.

Lord Dufferin looked at the interesting figures as a rejoicing Irish landford. Mr. Sulliwan, an American born and bred, looked at them as an American, and asks if it is not time that this foreign tax upon American labor should be stopped. "This enormous amount of money," he said. "Is carned in the United States, and should stay in the Victorian, it can forthwith be stopped. So long as the present retrime exists in Ireland, the mass of the people will live on the verge of famine, and will be kept from death by lunger only through the filancial hid sent them by their kindred in the Now World. A seruting of the figures reveals, however, that the money gift is not always in proportion to the Swhen men, wome, and clare the states of the people will live on the states. Additional of hunger—while penty of food was being exported to Rogland—the sum transmitted was £460.000, while in 1854, when the potato crop was more than sufficient for the pensantry, the gift seat from the United States reached £1.730,000, or \$8,650,000. That went to save the tenants from eviction for arrears of rack-rents during the years when they would have died of hunger but for the charity of their kindred in other lands. Of course some of it went to the British steamship companies for passage money, but not very much, the practice being to purchase emigrants tickets this side the water and forward them. The great build be suffered in the United States, was handed over to Irish landlords as rack-rents. They much the provisions are within reach of only those who borrowed the sum have since be

San Antonio De Bexar. He was one of the six survivors who, under promise of being spared, at last surrendered, and were afterward treacherously put to death by Santa Anna's orders."

This is all a mistake. Crockett never had the opportunity to perform any "daring military exiloris" in Texas, because there was no force of Mexicans east of San Antonio, and Crockett arrived there from the East just before the Mexican army, under Gen. Cos, arrived from the West.

The Texas forces undertook to defend the Alamo, solely to escable Houston to collect an

The Texas forces undertook to defend the Alamo, solely to oscable Houston to collect an army that could meet the two Mexican armies advancing into the country. Every man who went into the Alamo knew it would be his tomb. No one surrendered. Croesett was killed loside the walls while defending himself to the last, with his trusty rifle used as a club. The only persons who "surrendered" or were taken alive in the Alamo, were Mrs. Dickinson, and her infant girl Angelina, aliorward known as "The Child of the Alamo," and a negro servant, who belonged to or waited upon Col. Travis.

I was one of the children in the Mission Refugio when it was taken, just previous to the fail of the Alamo, by the other Mexican army under tien. Urrea, and saw the brave defenders of that place shot down and lanced after they had surrendered as prisoners of war.

war.
The stubborn defence of the Alamo enabled Houston to collect the forces with which he met and defeated the united armles of Ces and Urrea, under Santa Anna, at San Jacinto.
The measurement to the befores of the Alamo, a The meanment to the heroes of the Alamo, a plain shaft that stood in the old Sute House at Austin, has inscribed on it the most expressive sentence in the English language: "Thermopying had three messengers of defeat; the Alamo had none."

I have often talked with all three of the survivors of the Alamo, and your "Uncle Bogardus" is the first person I ever heard of who said Crockett surrendered. He is mistaken.

Washington, Nov. 27. E. N. H.

The Law of Scent.

From the Tury, Pield and Farm. The complaint has been general in England that scent gets worse and worse every year, and it is suggested that the dogs are partly to blame for this

Luc Compilaint has been general in England that seem gets and worse every year, and it is suggested that the dogs are partly to blame for this Now has been sacrificed to other qualities, such as legs and feet, but something should be charged to modern agriculture. Land and Water devotes some space to the discussion of the phenomena of secut:

Is any one to be found bold enough to say he has mastered even the rudiments of the phenomena of secut:

Is any one to be found bold enough to say he has mastered even the rudiments of the phenomena of secut; it has long been found that not even a sentherly wind and a cloudy sky is a certain prelude to a day's sport. The late lord Flitzhardings once remarked he had hunted hounds for over fifty years, but knew no more about the chances of seen to the reverse than he did when the first becam to carry the horn. The poet Somerville chances of seen to the reverse than he did when the first becam to carry the horn. The poet Somerville hopes, in the seen of the reverse than the did when the first becam to carry the horn. The poet Somerville chances of seen to the reverse than the did when the first becam to carry the horn. The poet Somerville became the continued the seen of the continued to the state of the ground and the temperature. Other writers have fancied seent varies much of this opinion. We all know certain conditions under which hounds as a rule are smalle to get along, but we know nothing more. On most securingly unfavorable of this opinion. We all know certain conditions under which hounds as a rule are smalle to get along, but we know nothing more. On most securingly unfavorable days they can often run to distraction; on others, with apparently every thing in their favor, they can only wait sfire a for. A cold, raw windy day is, so far as can be judged, the most unfavorable to hounds, as are also those sunny, gaudy days are get some time in spring and autimum. Is well ascertained, and that is, pastures the area of the favorable hounds and that when the ground is well

The New York Horticultural Society distrib-

uted \$1,200 in prizes for displays of flowers in Horticul-tural Hall, at 20. West Twenty eighth street, yesterday. A Le Moult toos \$100 for the best floral design for a re-ception. H. C. Wilson \$100 for the best canely for a wedding, and Hauft Bros. \$100 for the best dimer label decoration. W. H. telements got \$20 for the best patern of orchida. The exhibition is to be continued to day.

MRS. DIOGENES IN WALL STREET Having Stuck Past in the Mad, she Makes Some Odd Observations.

the mud which formed such a predominant part of the Evacuation Day display put 138,-000 in the pockets of the tailors for new trousers for the soldiers. In addition to ex-pressing the objection of Mr. Diogenes on the diversion of so much capital to a band of auto-crats of the needle and shears, who, Mr. D. says, rival even plumbers in insidious and deadly assaults on personal income, I wish to enter my own individual protest against mud. I wish particularly to condemn that kind of mud which finds its way into Wall street. It seems to me that it is the most objectionable of all the species of med and water with which New Yorkers have to contend. I had occasion to go down to Wall street to look after some stocks the other day. The little boxed-up thoroughfare was dismed and cheerless to the eye and dangerous to limb, on account of the mud. Sidewalks and rondway were hidden beneath a thick coating of it. It clung to the clothing, encrusted footwear, and spouted in showers before the wheels

limb, on account of the mud. Sidewalks and roadway were hidden beneath a thick coating of it. It clung to the ciothing, encrusted footwear, and spouted in showers before the wheels of rumbling vehicles that unsteadily sild along. It bespattered buildings and freecoed atrect venders and errand boys. The mud that day entirely upset the normal order of things, and any number of people, and had a paralyzing effect on business.

I got caught in the mud, and a blockade of people and talings where in profitable point given to me confidentially by Mr. D., who got is the same way from a friend. The point vanished, and the stock I wanted to sell—it was a wenture Mr. D. recommended—fell seven pega in the scale before I cocaped from the tangle. I had, however, a fine opportunity to view the unique panoramic effects of a muddy day while I was stuck fast in the crowd. The narrow thoroughfare was a wild uproar of voices and noises, and an intricate confusion of entangied umbrollas, masculine legs, puffing pedestrians, swearing drivers, and blocked vehicles, all endowed with wild uncertainty of movement. Impatient brokers who confidently dashed out of the Exchange and started in one direction, as belpiess as Mr. D. was when the state of the Exchange and started in one direction, as belpiess as Mr. D. was when the state of the states. The whole there is the feet sliding somewhere olse. Anybody who strove to correct his uncertain locomotion met with sudden disaster. I saw my own personal broker strive to regulate his limbs when he found himself sliding out of the path of his destination. It was futile. He speedily bumped against an anthmatic noighbor, and the shock imparted to both what Mr. D. would describe as compound differentiated motion, which laid them low.

There were only two things in the whole street that bid defiance to the farry.

At last a happy thought struck the crowd of brokers and bankers and other impatient elitizans when the stock market shut up and it came time to go home. Having failed to get anywhore by try

To the Editor of the Sun—Sir: I see in The Sun to-day an article entitled "He Knew Davy Crockett," in which "Old Uncle Bogardus" is made to tell some anecdotes of the Tennessee hunter. These may all be true, but the closing sontenes, which tells of Crockett's life and death in Texas, is not true.

"Uncle Bogardus" says: "Grockett went to Texas, where, after a series of daring military exploits, he was finally klifed at Fort Alamo, in San Antonio De Boxar. He was one of the six survivors who, under promise of being spared, it last surrendered, and were afterward treachrously put to death by Santa Anna's orders."

This is all a mistake. Crockett never had the operating to perform any "daring military ploits" in Texas, because there was no force Mexicans each of San Antonio, and Crockett's life and the story of the six survivors who, under promise of being spared, it last surrendered, and were afterward treachrously put to death by Santa Anna's orders."

This is all a mistake. Crockett never had the operating the story of the same and the story of the six of the si some cases is from four to five index from this shartly, and as work is slways commenced by daylicht, you can easily see we have incohance to be lake risers. The men castly see we have incohance to be lake risers. The men which is generally resting to devour their dimer, which is generally resting to devour their dimer, which is preached four after dark. Support esten, the weary men 'bunk in 'and are soon asleep.

STORIES OF ANIMALS.

A pet crow belonging to H. G. Heidt of Columbia, S. C., imped upon a shelf where its master's recolver by, and began playing with it. The revolver was discharged, within the crow.

While walking in the woods, Mrs. Catherine J. Shell of Green bowholp, Eric county, Pa. Jell and was seriously injuried. A jet dog that accompanied had was seriously house and the Mrs.

en bywnship. Eris county. Far fell and was seriously red. A pet dog that a companied has ran back to the se, and led Mr. Snell to the spot where his wife by

while walking in the woods. Mrs. Catherine J. Smell of Green township. Error counts, Pa. feel and was seriously injured. A pain of their accompanied because to the Mrs. Among Howes of Kitter, No., feeral to, spenishe med on his more's mounday folder. Presently he heard agreat more in the stake, and found the horse with the pain of great more in the stake, and found the horse with the pain of med in his mouth, just inling it into its uninger. A spaniel behavior to William H. Ravibes of froving desires as we above that the broken borse from a hitch desired as the horse accord and great mile heard in the horse accord and great of the horse accord and great folder. A comment of the horse accord and great find painted to the horse accord and great find painted to the horse accord and great find painted to the horse accord and great find in the horse accord and great find painted to the doctor of the doct. The down heard of the horse predict in a body and more of the doc. The house had do the horse predicted by a Nowfoundian dog. The househost of the horse from the doctor of the painted to the doctor of Synantee, and dog June were first fractat. One day tracks on the street and started to request the advantage of the particular of the doctor of the